Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 268

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, CASC, CPAS

SUBJECT: CLEMENCY PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM ERA DRAFT EVADERS AND MILITARY DESERTERS.

REF: STATE 007614

1. THE EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION AND DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO HANDLE ALL INQUIRIES FROM DRAFT EVADERS AND ABSENTEES AS CAREFULLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, EMPHASIZING THE CUT-OFF DATE OF JANUARY 31, 1975, AS WELL AS ALL PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO PROTECT RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE AFTER THE CUT-OFF DATE. THE TWO EMBASSY OFFICES HAVE THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM MAINTAINED CLOSE COORDINATION, AND PROCESSING OF RETURNING PERSONNEL, ONCE VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE U.S., USUALLY TAKES LESS THAN ONE DAY.

2. AMERICAN MASS-CIRCULATION PUBLICATIONS (TIME, NEWSWEEK, INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE) ARE READILY AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT DENMARK, AND HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE CLEMENCY PROGRAM, INCLUDING PERTINENT DATES, ADDRESSES, AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS. DANISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE, OFTEN INCLUDING SPECIFIC DETAILS. DANISH TELEVISION AND RADIO HAVE REPORTED ON THE CLEMENCY PROGRAM DURING STRAIGHT NEWS BROADCASTS. ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS FROM VOA, BBC, AND AFN UNCLASSIFIED

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(WHICH ARE RECEIVED IN DENMARK) HAVE ALSO REPORTED ON

THE PROGRAM IN NEWS BROADCASTS. AFN AND VOA HAVE, OF COURSE, GIVEN MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION DURING MORE EXPANDED COVERAGE.

3. FYI, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 15
INQUIRIES FROM ABSENTEES OR DRAFT EVADERS. ONLY FOUR
WERE ACTUALLY RESIDING IN DENMARK (TWO IN DANISH PRISONS),
AND THE OTHER ELEVEN RESIDED IN SOUTHERN SWEDEN BUT CAME
TO COPENHAGEN BECAUSE IT IS CLOSER THAN STOCKHOLM. OF
THE FIFTEEN, EIGHT HAVE ALREADY RETURNED, SIX DID NOT
FOLLOW-UP ON THEIR ORIGINAL INQUIRY, AND ONE CASE IS
PRESENTLY PENDING. OF THE SIX WHO DID NOT FOLLOW-UP
THEIR ORIGINAL INQUIRY, FIVE ARE RESIDENTS OF SWEDEN, AND
MAY HAVE ARRANGED THEIR RETURN THROUGH AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM.
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